1878 vertical ribs
1894 Kuehn lottery

Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.
Editor: Michael P Birks, Flixton Girls' School, Urmston, Manchester M31 3DR, England 061-747 5924 (Home)

Vol III, Nº.52 July 1993

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The **Central American Group** is a part of the **Spanish Main Philatelic Society,** the leading Society in the world for collectors of Latin America. The journal of the SMPS is 'The Mainsheet', published quarterly, and is available by annual subscription from the Secretary, Brian Moorhouse, PO Box 105, PETERBOROUGH PE3 8TQ, England. Phone 0733 268708. Subscription is currently £8 in Europe or $20 elsewhere. Cheques in sterling or US$ should be made payable to 'The Spanish Main'. A three year subscription of £21/$54 and a five year subscription of £30/$80 are available and payment for these longer subscriptions may be made by Access, Mastercard or Visa.

The **Central American Group** caters for collectors of Mexico to Panama. Its journal, which you are now reading, is published quarterly, and is available by annual subscription. The subscription is currently £5 in Europe or £6 elsewhere. Dollar bills, or sterling cheques payable to 'The CA Group' should be sent to the treasurer, Colin Eddleston, 19 Sion Hill, BATH BA1 2UJ, England. Phone 0225 315608. We shall be pleased to forward the relevant portions of multi-subscription cheques to the SMPS or the Chile Group.

Back issues are available to members at 75p/$1.50 each, although issues 1-20 inclusive can be purchased for £10/$20 complete. Non-members may request a sample copy for 75p/$1.50 post paid. Requests for back issues should be sent to the Editor, to whom cheques should be made payable.

The group leader is Richard Saundry, Gwrych Cottage, Godstone Road, Bletchingley, REDHILL, Surrey RH1 4PL, England. Phone 0883 742186.

The Group does not run a packet. The SMPS Packet Secretary is Brian Sylvester, 3 Russel Court, St Lukes Road, MAIDENHEAD, Berks SL6 7AP, England. Phone 0628 784555.

Although most packets are of a general nature, there are occasional specialised one country packets. Good and unusual material is always wanted.

Owing to insurance difficulties, the packet is not available to overseas members, although we shall be pleased to accept material for inclusion in the packet from them.

The Auctioneer of the SMPS is Brian Moorhouse, to whom Auction and Private Treaty lots should be sent. Brian is a dealer, and will include your name on his mailing list if requested.

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EDITORIAL

First our thanks to Martyn Cusworth for arranging a most enjoyable meeting at York on 8 May. The idea of several short papers followed by a longer one, lunch, another longer one and more short papers, was I feel an excellent one, and a format I shall certainly adopt myself when next we meet in Manchester. If any of you would like to give a ten minute paper (or longer) but have never dome it before, may I suggest you write to me so that we can discuss the matter. This would provide an opportunity to start displaying with the help and guidance of more experienced collectors.

I find I need to repeat my request for articles and items on Republics other than Nicaragua. This journal is only as good as its contributors, and unfortunately they are few in number. If you have anything to contribute, please do.

Enclosed with his issue is a request for members for the Waterlow Study Circle. If the issues of Waterlow are to be found in your Republic, you might like to consider this group as anadditional source for research. It was through this group that I personally identified the so called 'Railway Tax Stamps' of Nicaragua as 'Railway Tickets', 1st and 2nd class, and positively identified them as Waterlow's products.

We regret to announce the death in February of Kaarlo E Anttila, one of our members for many years, who finally closed his albums after a long battle with cancer. He was known for his collections of Ecuador and Colombia for which he had received international recognition. Our deepest sympathies and condolencies go to his wife, Kathy, and his children.

mpb

IS THIS ANOTHER UNREPORTED COSTA RICAN AMBULANTE POSTMARK?

by RICHARD SAUNDRY

Recently I came across a single off-cover example of the Costa Rica 15 ctmos adhesive (SG 480, Sc C189) depicting the Battle of El Tejard, Cartago. This stamp was the lowest denomination of the set of eight stamps issued 20 July 1950 (Saenz quotes 19 July) commemmorating the 'National War of Liberation' (Civil War) of 1948, printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.

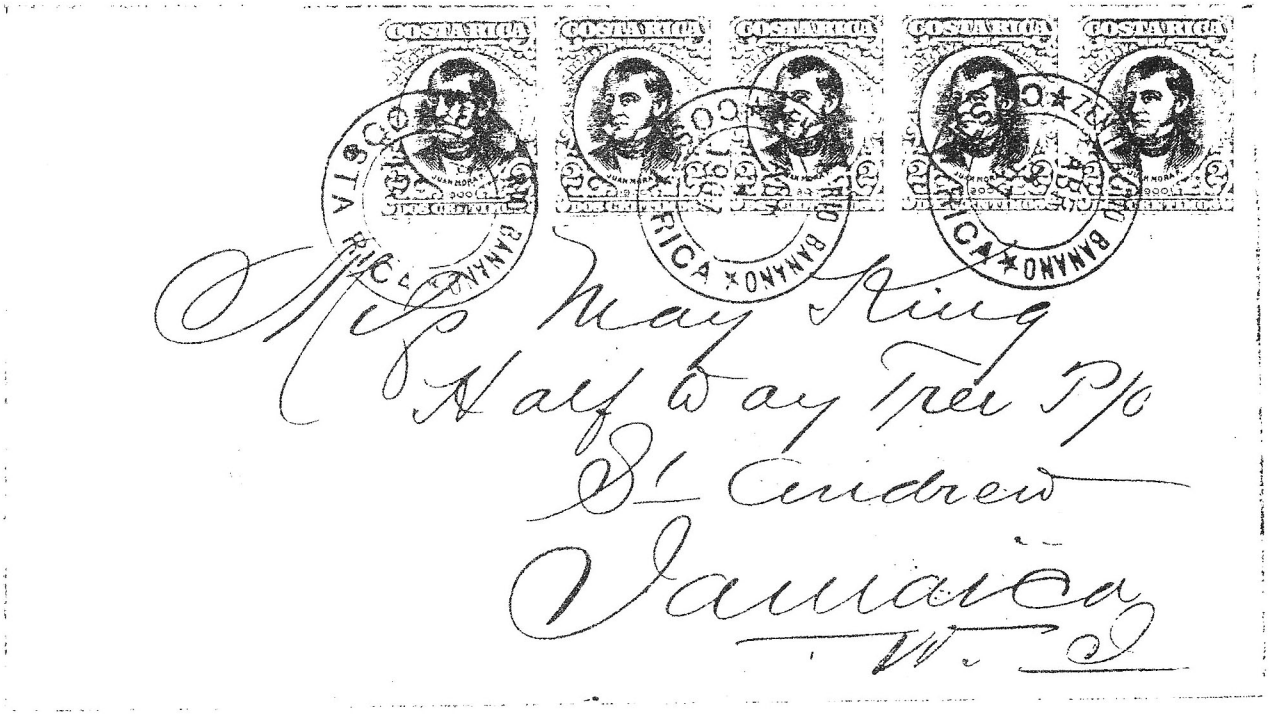
Three million copies of this stamp were printed so we can assume that this relatively common stamp saw steady use over a period of perhaps several years in the early 1950's. 15 ctmos satisfied a current domestic postal rate, which I guess was probably for local letters. The interesting feature about this stamp is the part-strike of a straight line postmark "...mbulante - Limon". It does not require too much imagination to assume that the wording was "Ambulante - Limon", a handstamp used on the travelling post office on a Northern Railway line serving Limon. I have checked my only reference to the Ambulante postmarks of Costa Rica ("Notes on the Railroads and the Ambulante Postmarks" by H D Mitchell, serialised in "The Costa Rican Philatelist" as four installments 1954-55) and find no reference to such a postmark. Since this mark was found on a stamp used synchronously with the writing of ambulante articles which generated quite a useful amount of active correspondence, it is quite amazing that this particular postmark was not discovered and reported at the time. It is of course possible that it was not used until after 1955.

I can only guess that this postmark was used on a little used branch line, perhaps the branch line to Zent (Mitchell states that for this branch line postmarks are frequently

encountered but there is no official document for such an ambulante service after 1925), or possibly the Limon to La Estrella line (where postmarks are not known* but for which there is official documentary evidence for the provision of a daily ambulante service over this route still in operation in 1950). The fact that it appears to be just a "simple" straightline undated postmark suggests to me that it may have been only a very locally used postmark, or an old one temporarily re-introduced into service. Undated straightline ambulante postmarks saw regular use in Costa Rica in the early 1890's. Has anyone else ever come across this postmark, preferably on cover?

For purposes of illustration I made a black and white photograph of my stamp and outlined the postmark on the photograph. The original faint postmark will not readily lend itself to photocopying. Just as well I did, since subsequent to photocopying the stamp I unfortunately mislaid the original, and as with most things it will probably only turn up again when I am no longer trying to find it.

*Mitchell states that the salary for the clerk running the ambulante over the Limon-la Estrella route in 1909 was officially termed "Ambulante de Banano" because the lines had only been laid as far as the Banano River. I have one cover leaving the country via Limon sent over this route in 1907. Apparently this service was dropped by 1910 because of lack of use, but was re-introduced in 1920 as the "Ambulante de la Estrella". As far as I am aware no ambulante postmarks have been reported for the Estrella line after 1920.



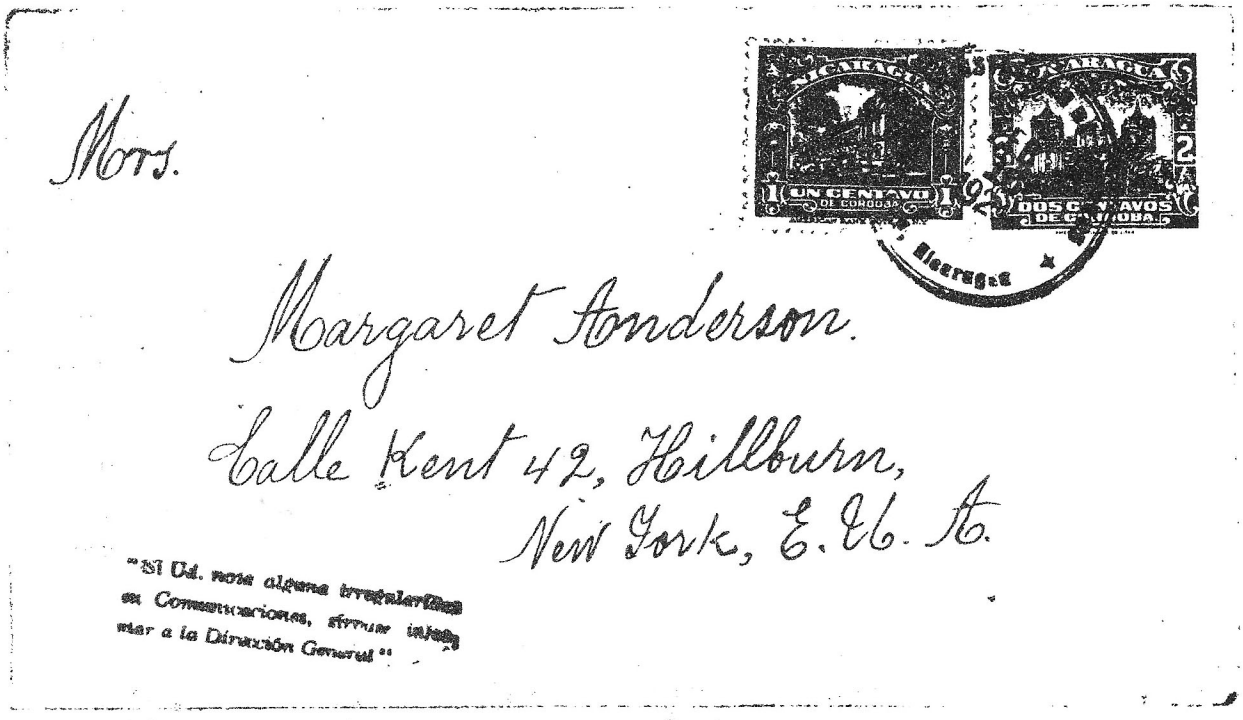
8 April 1907: Zent a Rio Banano to Kingston, Jamaica. The very clear Limon cds on the front will not reproduce at all because it was struck in light green. This cds in important as it proves the direction of the train was to Limon the logical port for mail to Jamaica.

THE INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS OF NICARAGUA

by D N KILNER

(Continued from page 215)

9. 'SI UD. NOTA ALGUNA IRREGULARIDAS EN COMMUNICACIONES SIRVASE INFORMA A LA DIRECCION GENERAL.'
(If you note any irregularities about the letter, you should inform the Director General)

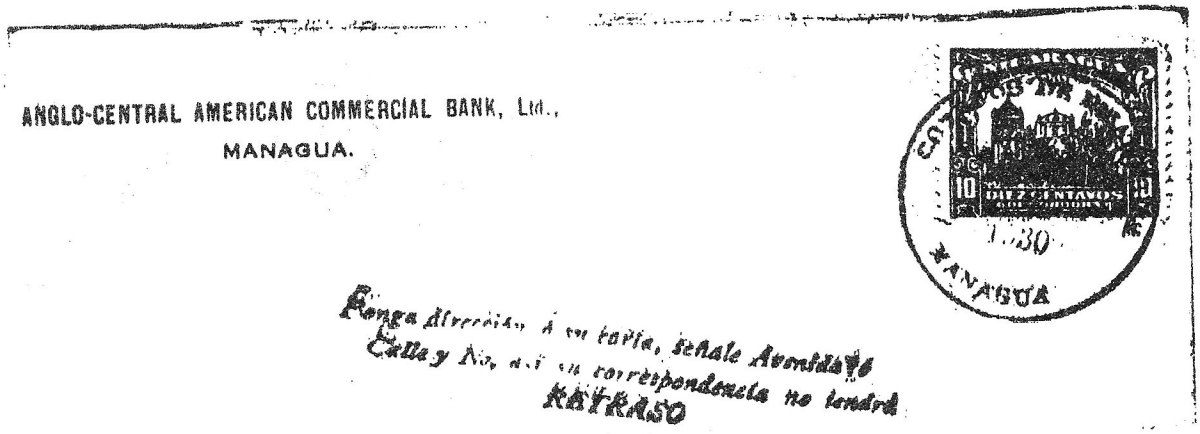


The four covers that I have bearing the above cachet, which measures 45 x 10 mm overall, are dated between August 1924 and June 1926. The illustration from Kilian Nathan in CANL No.37, extends the date of use to December 1926. The possible reasons for this cachet were the searing of letters for cash or cheques and the opening of mail for political reasons.

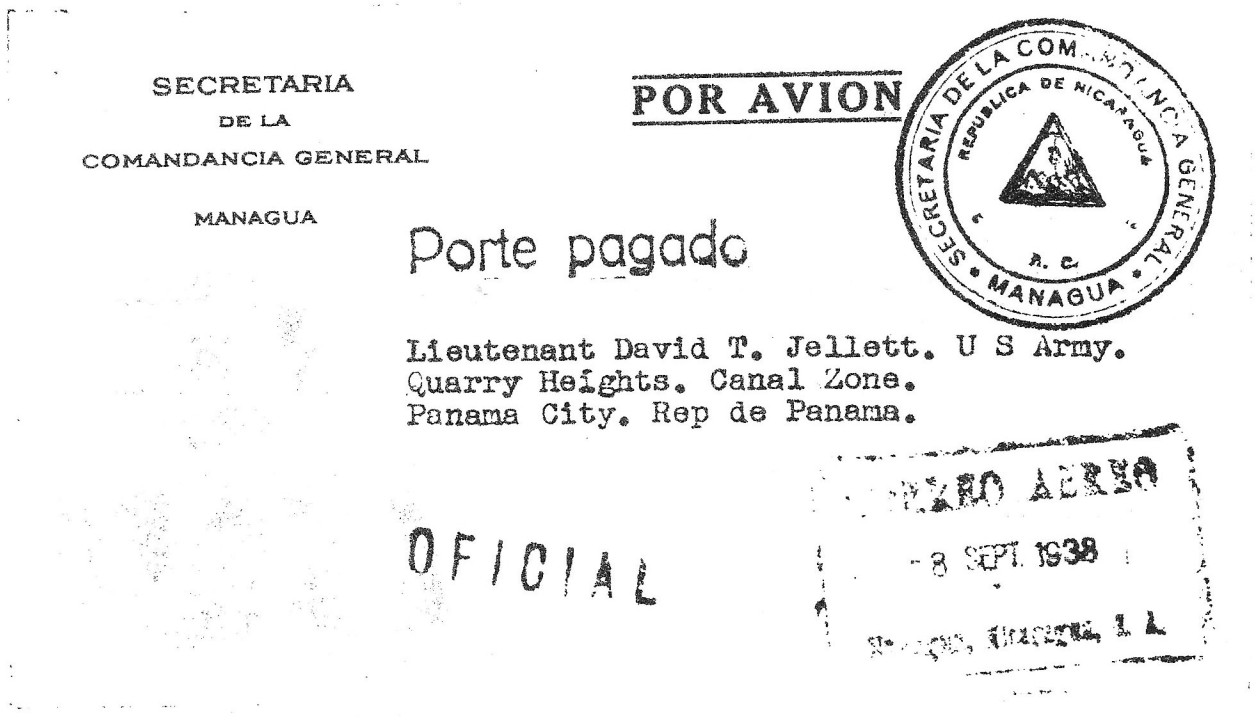
10. PONGA DIRECCION A SU CARTA, SENALE AVENIDA O CALLE Y No, ASI SU CORRESPONDENCIA NO TENDRA RETRASO.
(Put the address of your house and street number on your correspondence, or it will be liable to DELAY)

In CANL No.37 a cover from the Anglo-Central American Commercial Bank Ltd., Managua, dated in the 1930's which came from Kilian Nathan, was illustrated bearing the above cachet.

This is the only mention of this cachet that I have come across.


ANGLO-CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMERCIAL BANK, Ltd.,
MANAGUA.
10 DIEZ CENTAVOS
1.30
MANAGUA
Ponga Dirección á su carta, señale Avenida ó Calle y No. así su correspondencia no tendrá RETRASO

11. PORTE PAGADO (Post Paid)



The above cover is an example of official government mail, in this case from the Secretaria of the Cammanding General to a Lieutenant in the American Army in Panama City. In addition to the handstamp of the sender and an 'Official' cachet, a 45½ x 6 mm handstamp 'Porte Pagado' has been added to denote post paid. All the various cachets and handstamps are in purple.

12. CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL LIBRE (Official Correspondence Free)

This cover was sent from the American Consulate in Bluefields to Staten Island, New York via New Orleans, picking up a purple staight line PAQUEBOT on the way. Instead of a stamp, a brownish-black 62 x 12 mm cachet, denoting that consular mail was free, was applied by the consular staff.

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

CONSULADO AMERICANO
BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA
CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL

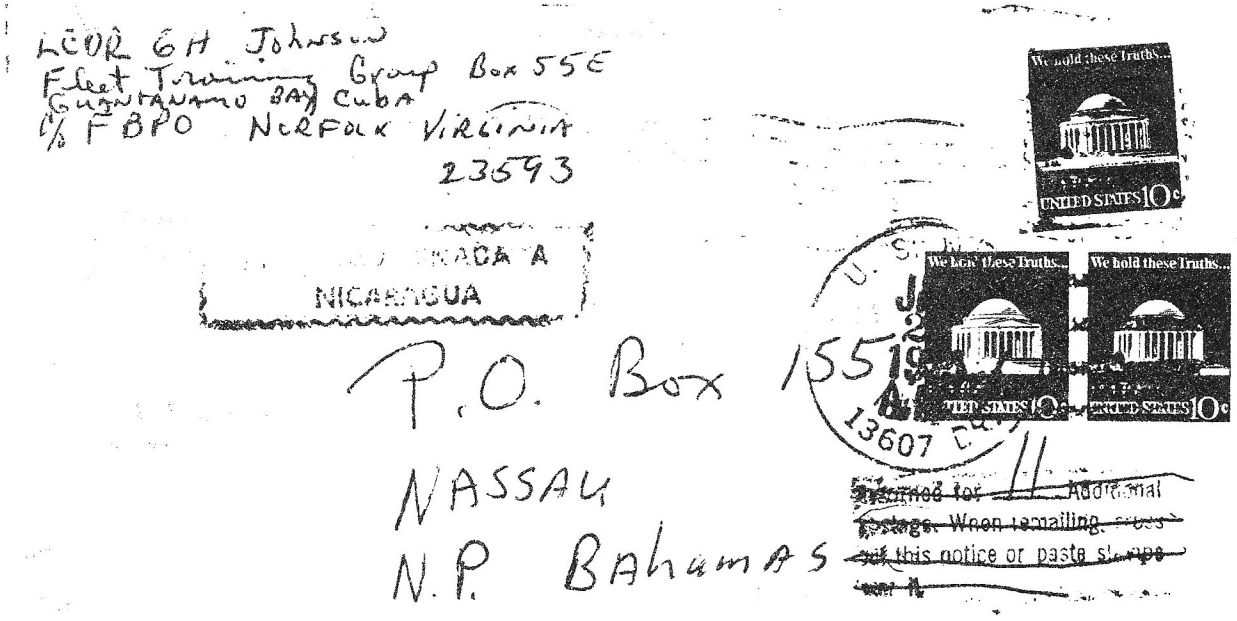
Mrs. P. A. Bonney,

C/o Public Museum, Staten Island Institute of
Arts and Sciences,

Staten Island, N. Y.

United States of America.

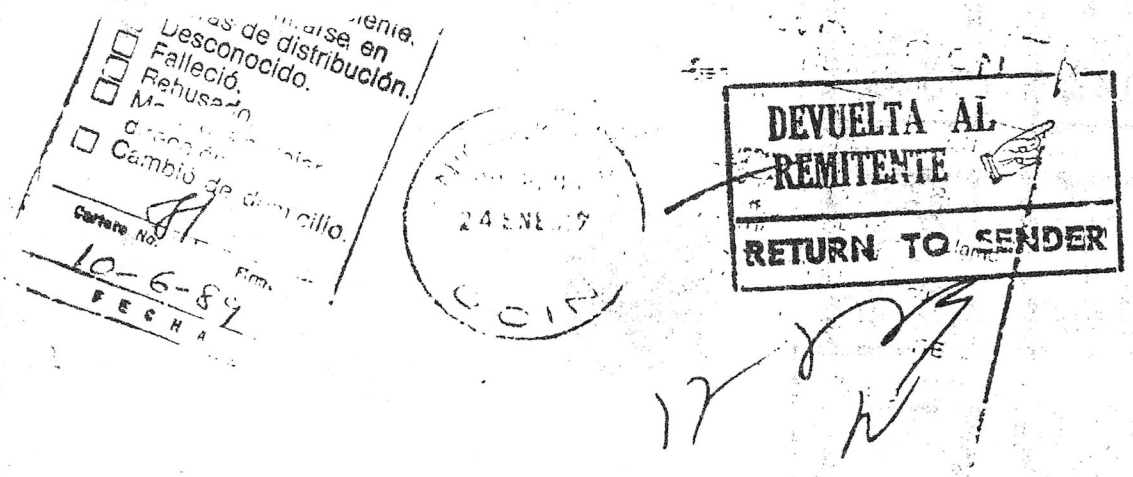
13. 'MAL ENCAMINADA A NICARAGUA' (Not intended for or Missent to Nicaragua)



A cover from the American Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a Forces Post Office and a PO Box No. in the Bahamas. The cover was returned for additional postage and took 15 days to re-post. In the course of delivery a 53 x 12 mm rectangular cahet explaining the delay was caused by mis-routing, was applied. CANL No.3 of March 1981 showed an example of this handstamp in an article by our Editor, illustrating three different types from three different countries. The date of the letter with the Nicaraguan cachet was

10 October 1974. Until I found the above cover with the same mark which is dated 21 January 1975. I had not seen another.

14. 'DEVUELTA AL REMITENTE' (Return to sender)



In an attempt to obtain information about postal matters in Nicaragua, I wrote to the authorities addressing the envelope to the Postmaster General, Managua. The date of the letter was 14 January 1989. The letter was returned to me in January 1990, unopened and with various cachets on the back.This final cachet measures 52½ x 27½ mm. The letter was aparently undeliverable and therefore had to be sent back to the sender. The reason for the non-delivery was apparently that the addressee was absent or had gone away.

In conclusion, if any member has any additional 'directional marks' or has any different explanations for their use, or different dates of use, I would be interested to hear about them, via the Editor.

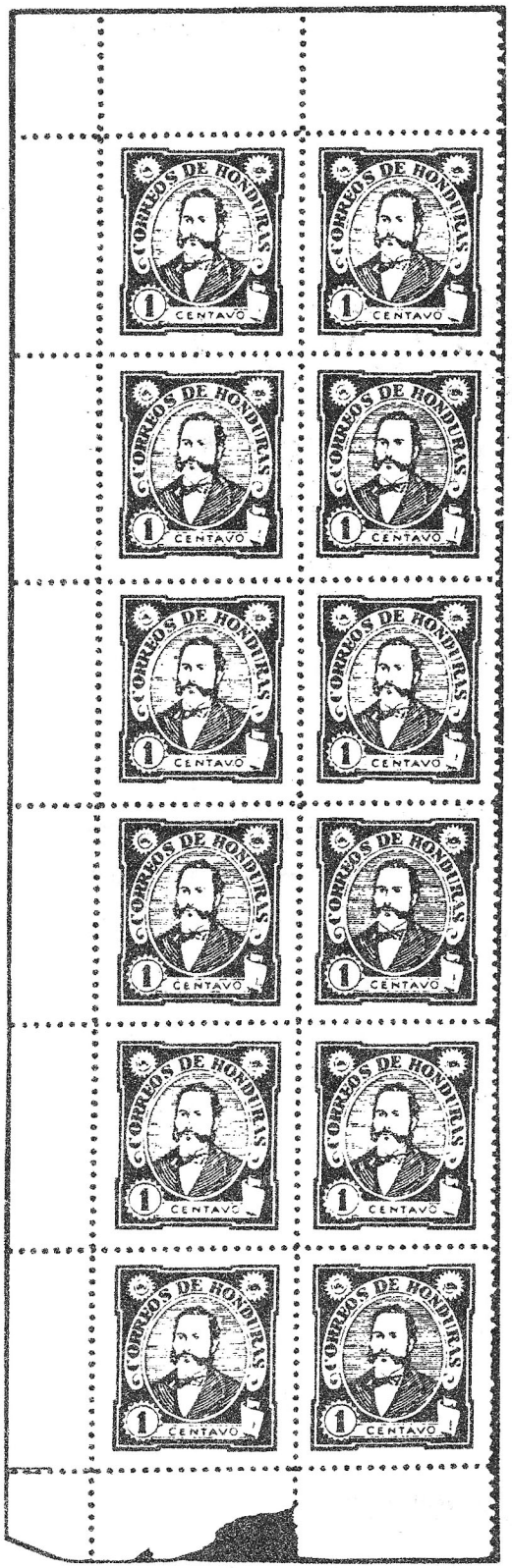
Acknowledgements

CANL - various articles.
CANL No.3. March 1981, 'Missent to ...' by Michael Birks
No.26 November 1986. Postcard Page by Kilian Nathan
No.37 October 1989. Nicaragua: Another Unusual Cachet by Kilian Nathan

THE INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS OF NICARAGUA. From Giana Wayman of Costa Rica.

"Another instructional mark is 'OUT SIDE MAIL' which is found on a few items from Bluefields from at least 1898-1905. The reason for its use is unknown since it is only found on a few of the letters going overseas and most examples are clearly philatelic from 1899.

However I do have a 2¢ post card with a 5¢ 1904 revenue handstamped 'B ...' added used in 1905 to Germany, on the back of which the message indicates that it is a personal non-philatelic card."



From **R van Rompay** of Brussels.

"I recently bought a lot of forgeries of the 1896 Arias issue of Honduras, mostly in ungummed sheets of 120 (20 x 6). Not all values were in the lot. If any member of the group is interested, I can offer a full sheet for £3 or four different for £9 as long as stocks last."
Send your letters to the editor for forwarding.
Some of the stamps are illustrated on the left.

From **Brian Sylvester** of Maidenhead.

"I enclose a used copy of the El Salvador 5 cent stamp of 1898 (SG 279) which appears to be overprinted with SG type 67. This overprint is listed in the Gibbons Catalogue on the 2 and 10 cents values (SG 476/7) but not on the 5 cent. I wonder if this might interest your readers."

Your comments on this item are invited, and if it should prove to be of interest, it will be offered for sale through this journal. Perhaps someone would care to suggest a price?

WANTS LISTS

In the interests of security, this journal does not publish addresses. We shall be pleased to forward any correspondence unopened.

Argentina 582/6,587/8,590,617,641,877/8,1018,1029.
Bolivia 171,283,286,288/9,290/6,301,303/5,398,400,402.
Brazil 284,471,E490. **Chile** 286/9,515.
Costa Rica 146/7,160,162,327,330,372,374.
Cuba 379,381,384,386,390,488.
Ecuador 332/7,340/2,344/8,401,403/5,480,482/5,495,497, 499,500b,552/6,558a,654a,b,c.
Guatemala 159/60,163/4,427. **Colombia** 429/31,433/4.
Haiti 314/7,319/20,358/63,379,462/3. **Hond.** 328/36,372/4
Nicaragua 394/405,465/73,591/603,617/27,912/24, 965/74 975/81,1046.
Mexico 299,301,410/11,417,427/35,483.
Panama 178/82,184/95,265/7,358/73,400,403,406,408,411, 415/29. **Peru** 454/6. **Uruguay** 648,654
Paraguay 376,378,464,545/7,558/60,579/82,613/9,666/73, 706/7,713/5,722/27.
All SG numbers; required mint by D Cameron.

Postal History International Vol.8 #7. (Robert A Mason)

Nicaragua SG 574/85 Sc 466-78 mint. (Palace and Cathedral 1928) (Mike Birks)

Honduras SG 791/4. 1972 Masonic Lodge overprints on any covers. (Richard Heap).

Nicaragua 1921 Centenary of Independence issues on covers. (c/o Mike Birks).

NICARAGUAN NEW ISSUES by MICHAEL P BIRKS FRPS,L

In my attempts to clarify the new issues of this country I wrote to the Philatelic Bureau in Managua and obtained a price list of stamps currently available. I found that a set issued in 1987 for UNICEF SG 2826/9 had been re-issued surcharged with new values. I have obtained a set and illustrate them here.

The original set (top row) costs $0.71 and the surcharged set (bottom row) $1.60.

Write to: Direccion de Filatelia, Edificio 'Jorge Navarro', Apartado Postal 325, Telcor, Managua, Nicaragua. The price list contains sets going back to the 1970's.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

NICARAGUAN POSTAL STATIONERY from Dr D A Pocock of Australia

"The 1878 card H&G 1 shows a new variety or one for which I can find no previous recording. It consists of the card showing vertical ribbing, clearly identified on both sides. Really the discovery belongs to Michael Schreiber who identified it from my stock of 1878 and 1888 cards (and reply cards with the same design) when he examined my holdings in the course of a joint study on a possible plating of these designs.

From a joint holding of some 40 cards Michael found 3 examples, 2 mint and 1 used. The latter was posted from Chinandega in March 1884 to Leon. We now need members to check their holdings of H&G 1 to asses the incidence of this variety and, if possible, the general period of usage.

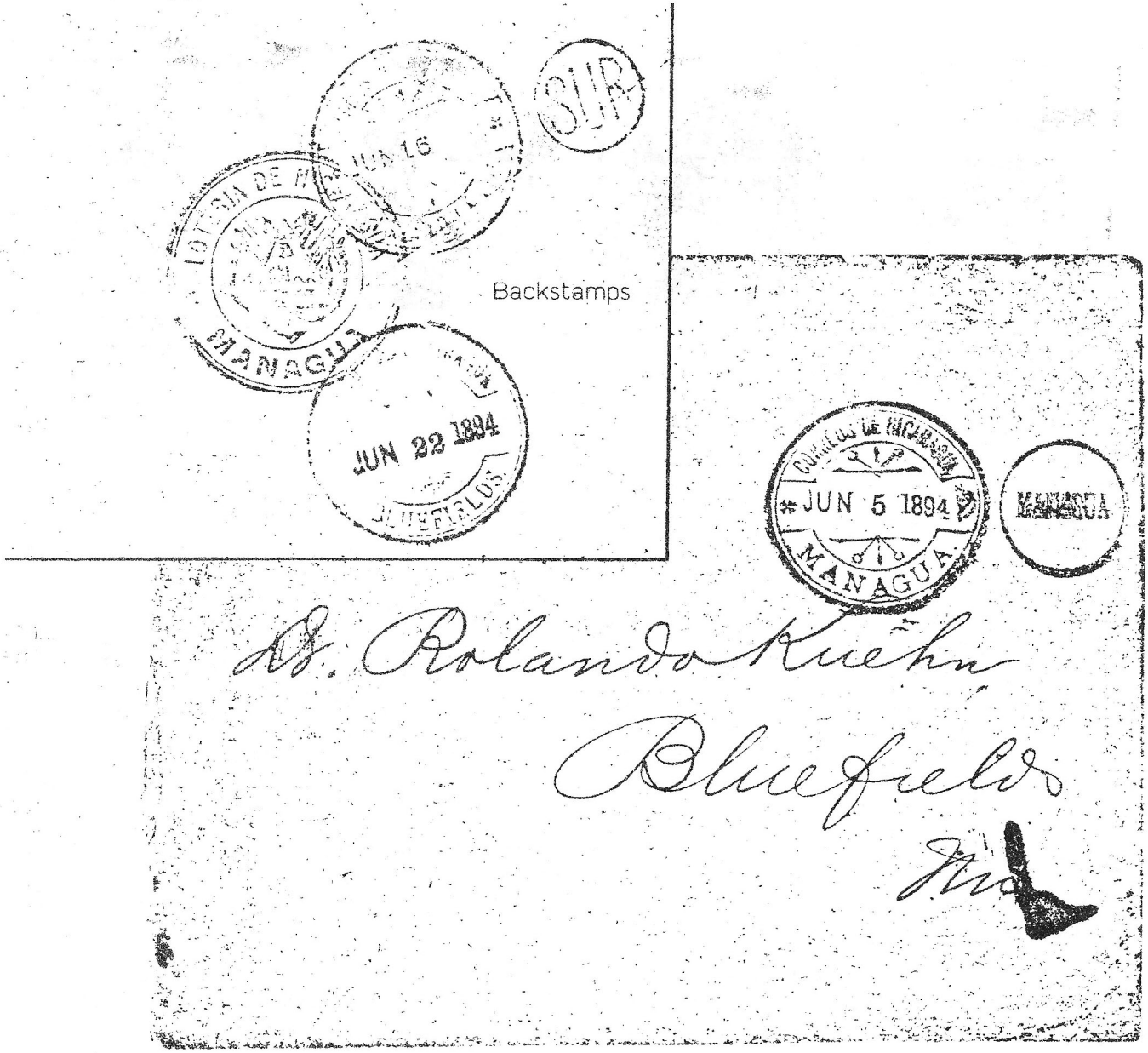
Hopefully given the opportunity to study other members collections of these cards, we shall be able to report further on both this variety and the numerous flaws in a plating study."

KUEHN PLAYS THE LOTTERY by BILL WELCH

During his years on the Mosquito Coast of Nicaragua, Rolando Kuehn, MD, was always alert to new ways to make money, in stamps, covers, or anything else. As documented in Michael Schreiber's article in the January issue of 'Nicarao' and my March article in 'The American Philatelist', Kuehn looked into the ventures ranging from banana-peeling machines to railroads to "Mosquito Provisional" overprints. Many collections of Nicaragua include examples of his postal card requests to publishers, manufacturers and distributors for more information about their products.

Kuehn also seems to have played the lottery.

A recent find of Kuehn covers included two tattered covers that were mailed from the Central Office of the Nicaraguan Lottery in Managua on June 5 and 10, 1894. They were addressed to Kuehn at Bluefields.

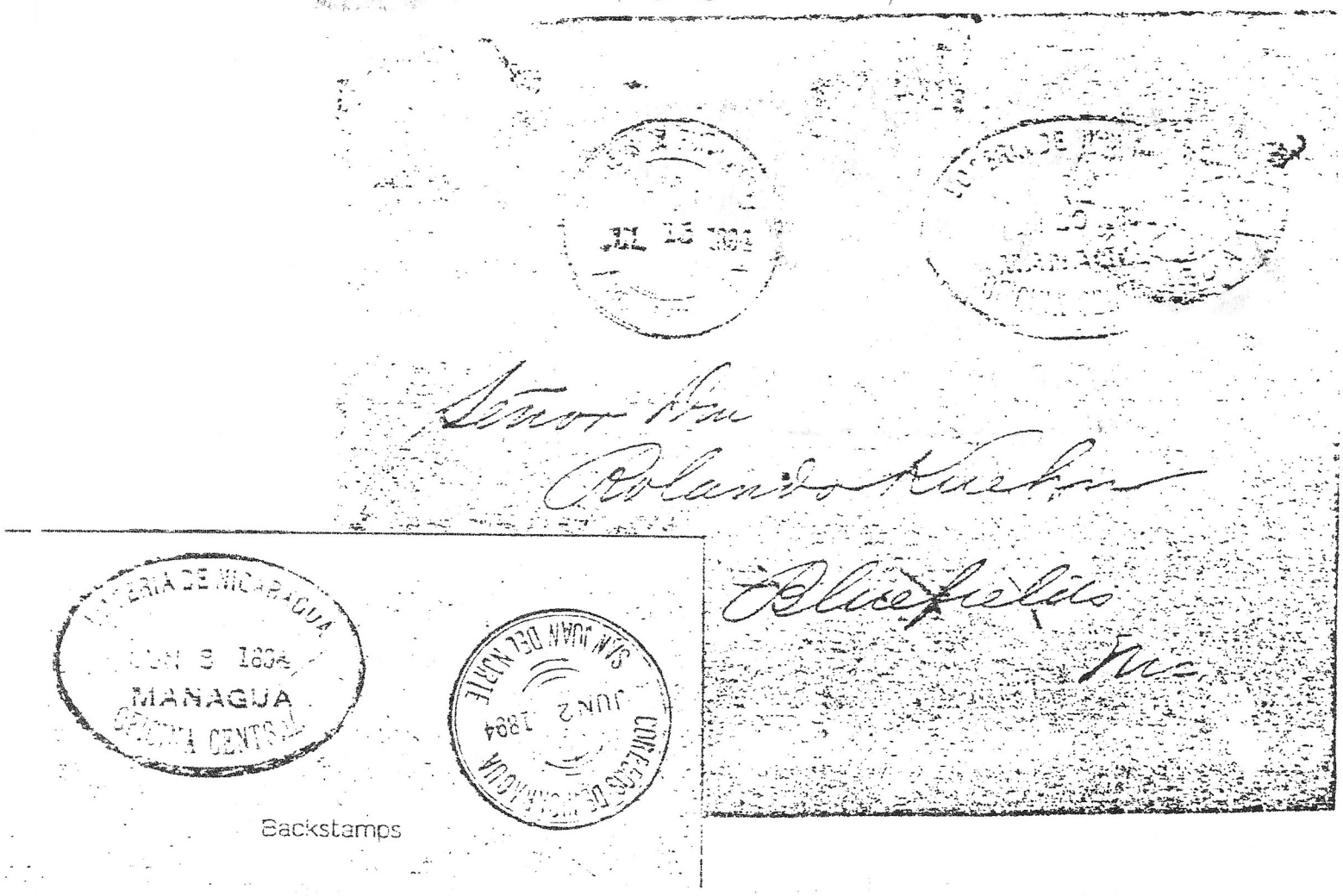


16

The June 5 cover (on the previous page) bears only a Managua postmark on the front, with backstamps of San Juan del Norte (June 26) and Bluefields (June 22). Also on the reverse is a handstamped seal of the Loteria de Nicaragua, Managua.

The June 10 cover (below) has an indistinct Managua postmark on the front, along with an oval marking of the Central Office of the Nicaraguan Lottery in Managua. The same oval marking was applied to the reverse as a seal, with a date of June 8, 1894. The San Juan del Norte backstamp date appears to be July 2. The cover did not reach Bluefields until July 15; the receiving mark was applied to the front of the cover.

June 20-something?

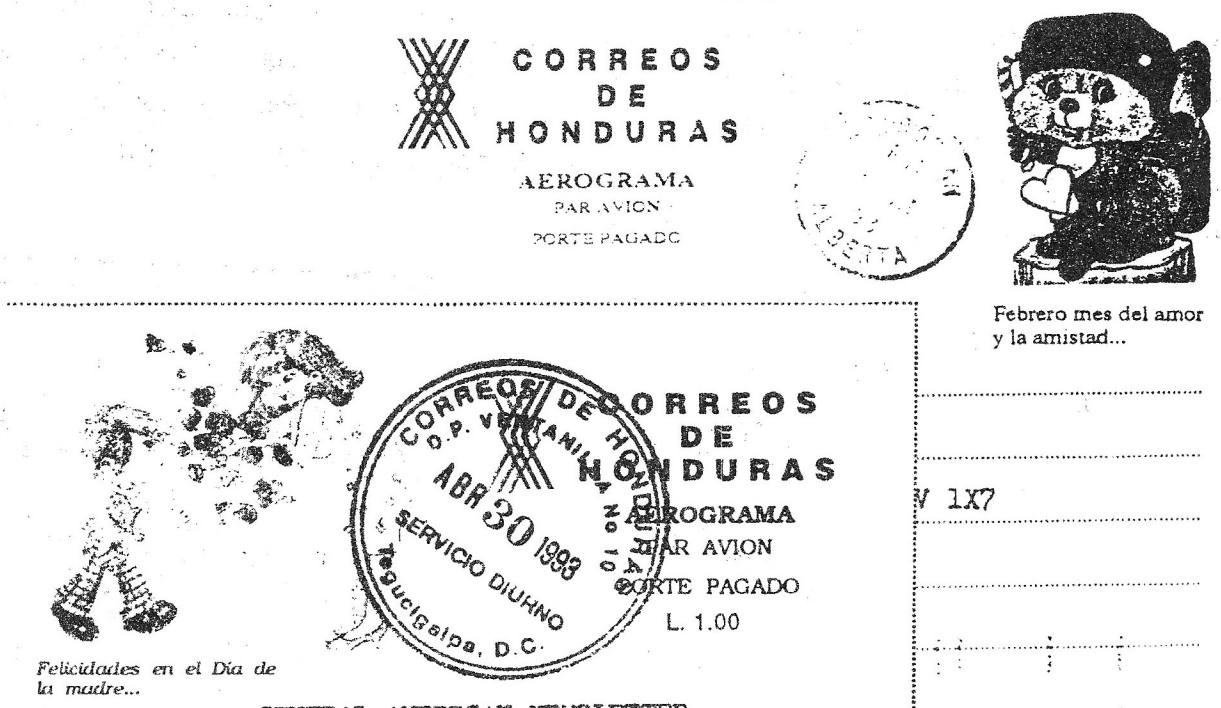


Backstamps

The first cover took only seventeen days to make its journey, the second took well over a month. The difference no doubt resulted from the "Mosquito Rebellion" at Bluefields in July 1894 and the resulting turmoil along the Mosquito Coast. The rebellion gave rise to Kuehn's Mosquito Provisional overprints, which may have been the closest that he ever came to hitting a jackpot.

These are the only Nicaraguan Lottery covers that I can recall having seen. Can anyone provide additional information about the Lottery, or show any covers from it?

TWO NEW AEROGRAMMES FROM HONDURAS



CENTRAL AMERICAN NEWSLETTER

Editor: Michael Birks

Flixton Girls' School

Urmston, Manchester M31 3RD

Two new aerogrammes have been issued by the Honduran Post Office in recent months, and these have been received by Piet Steen (LA Post) and myself, for which we must thank Antal Borcsok of Tegucigalpa, who also provided the details below.

The first (top) was issued on 17 February 1993 to commemmorate St Valentine's Day. The date of issue was originally intended to have been 13 February, but was delayed owing to printing problems.

1,000 copies were produced and all were sold at the Tegucigalpa and San Pedro offices within three days. The face value of the aerogramme is L1.00, although only the words 'PORTE PAGADO' appear (post paid), and is valid for internal and overseas use. The small number issued may well result in it being one of the rarest aerogrammes, and certainly one of the most novel.

The second (lower) was issued on 28 April 1993 to commemmorate Mother's Day. The number printed is 5,000 and again the value is L1.00, this time appearing below the words 'PORTE PAGADO'.

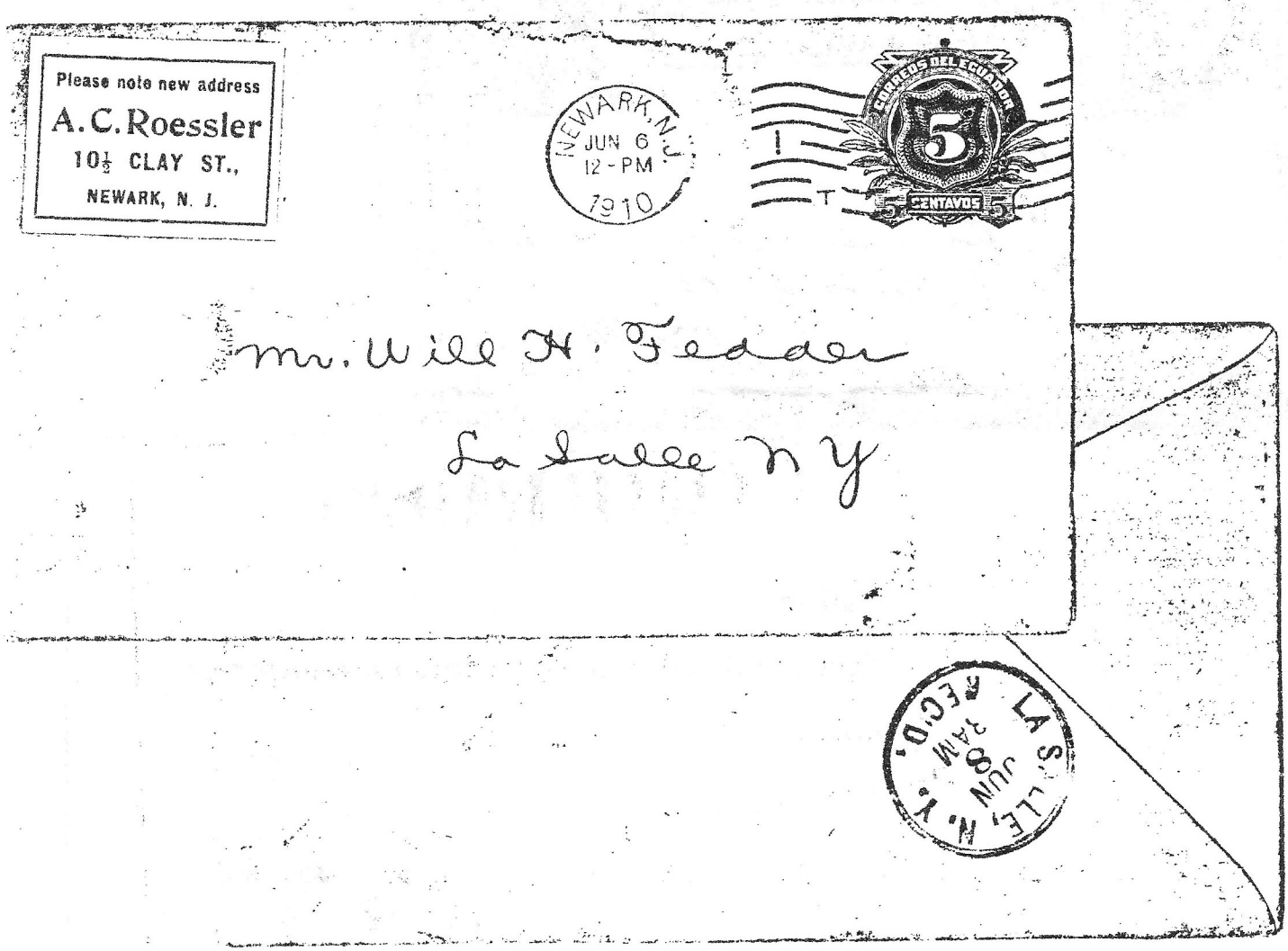
Both areogrammes are printed on pink paper with watermark.

TWO POSTHUMOUS SEEBECK ITEMS OF ECUADOR

by BILL WELCH

The two items of postal stationery pictured herewith represent two very different kinds of 'late use' of the Seebeck issues.

The first is a 5 centavo envelope of 1896 that was used in the United States in 1910. On its journey from Newark, New Jersey to La Salle, New York, no postal employee seems to have noted that it was an improper use. There is no sign that the cover was charged postage due or otherwise penalised.

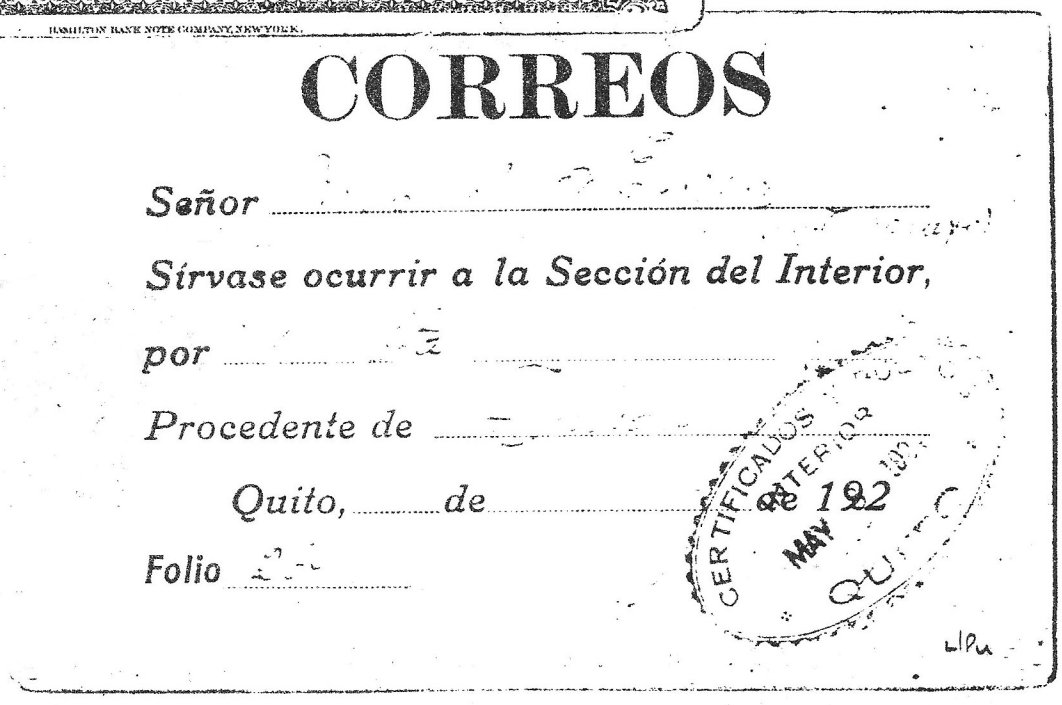


It is not especially surprising that a machine-cancelled cover would escape notice in the post office, although one would think the '5' denomination would have stood out: the U.S. domestic letter rate at the time was only two cents.

The cover was sent by a master manipulator of the mails. Albert C Roessler (1883-1952) was to gain greater philatelic fame in the air mail era, during which he prepared many first day and first flight covers.

Roessler had begun dealing in stamps about 1903 and was active in the hobby until the late 1930's. He sometimes used the 'nom de philatelie' of 'A C Roe'.

As to the second item, an 1892 postal card, it appears to have been genuinely used by the Post Office in Ecuador more than three decades after its dates of validity, yet it is not 'postally used' in the usual sense.



I believe someone in the Post Office came upon a quantity of unused Seebeck cards and had them 'recycled' into blank receipts or notices. (Such extreme 'late use' of postal and revenue items is far from uncommon in Latin America. The late Hentry Madden's collection of colonial 'papel sellado' included sheets of revenue-stamped paper re-validated for use more than a century after their original date.)

With thanks to Leo J Harris for the following analysis, I agree with his view that this is "a curious thing indeed".

The wording on the address side of the card reads "Please hand over to Sr Don Miguel Equer [Equez?]."

The reverse with the printed form reads "Sr Miguel A Equer [Equez?]/Please apply to the interior section (telegraph) for one carton coming from Tulcan.".

The handstamped marking reads "Registered and Parcels/Interior/May 8, 1924.".

John suspects that the recipient of this notice (in his Post Office box; there was very little local delivery at the time) gave a receipt ahead of time to his servant, although he did not name him, to pick up the carton.

There is no evidence that the card actually passed through the mail.

Can anyone show a later official use of any Seebeck item?

∞∞∞

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF NICARAGUA

Continued from page 240. Comments on this tentative listing are invited.

ISSUES FOR THE PROVINCE OF CABO GRACIAS A DIOS

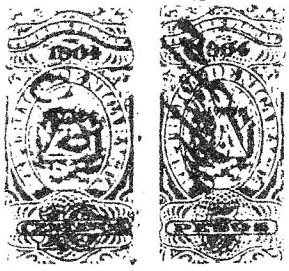
Cabo Gracias a Dios General Issues

Railway coupons inscribed '1' and '2' for 1st and 2nd class usage. Engraved and printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd, London. Size 20 x 24 mm. Perf 14-15. Sheet size unknown, but these stamps are always found in blocks of 20, without sheet margins, as a maximum.

1905. Handstamped 'CABO' in block letters, reading down.

CZ 1 5c on 2nd blue, black fiscal surch.
a brown fiscal surcharge
b red fiscal surcharge
CZ 2 10c on 1st vermilion (bk fisc sur)

The varieties found in the fiscal surcharge on the general issue, can all be found here. As is usual with handstamps, 'CABO' can be found in different positions.



1909. 'Cabo' handstamped on 1903 general issue additionally overprinted '1904' in black at top.

CZ 3 10c turquoise blue
CZ 4 5p ultramarine

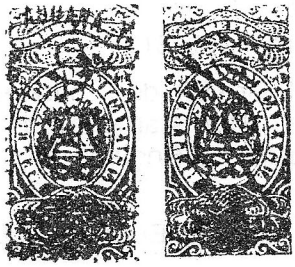
1909. 'CABO' in thicker letters on 1903 general issue, additionally overprinted '1904' in black at the top. Handstamped in black.

CZ 5 1p yellow brown.

1909. As above, but handstamped in violet.

CZ 6 25c lilac
CZ 7 50c yellow green
CZ 8 1p yellow brown
CZ 9 2p pearl grey
CZ10 5p ultramarine

In CZ 5-10 the 'C' of 'CABO' is larger than the other letters. In CZ 11 all the letters are the same size.



1909. 1903 general issue, handstamped 'CABO' in thin capital letters, reading down.

CZ11 50c yellow green.

1909. 1903 general issue overprinted 'C'.

CZ12 50c yellow green
CZ13 1p yellow brown

Z 11 Z 12/13

continued on page 251

WATERLOW STUDY CIRCLE.

As you may be aware the Waterlow Study Circle was formed in 1981 with the aim of investigating aspects of the stamps of all countries printed either by Waterlow & Sons Ltd. and/or Waterlow Brothers & Layton. The results of these studies were to be shared with philatelists generally.

Apart from individual membership all groups with issues printed by these firms were invited to become corporate members (with a nominated representative who would receive the Journal) in order that all knowledge recorded would be collated and made available to a wider readership.

As well as individuals a number of Societies, Study Circles and organisations accepted that offer of Membership.

Since that time, apart from meetings (usually in London), there have been 29 issues of the Waterlow Study Circle Journal - Edited (since 1983) by David Hubbard. Many aspects of Waterlow printing methods of general relevance, regardless of country, have been considered in published articles. It is hoped that these will have been of value to groups and individual members alike. Permission is always freely given for reproduction in other Society Journals. However it is thought that perhaps not as many societies have made as much use of this facility as might have been expected. Perhaps liaison between a Society's nominated representative and his Editor has been lacking? Equally perhaps new found knowledge has not yet been fed back to this Circle?

After 11 years of existence much progress has been made and our knowledge generally has been materially advanced, assisted in recent years by the discovery and availability of much Waterlow archival material. Many areas of study remain which, as far as we know, have not been covered, or if covered, have not been brought to the attention of the WSC through which a much wider readership could be reached.

These areas consist primarily of post WW1 countries and feed-back is now required if study is to proceed.

Until recently the number of 'active' members, both those undertaking research and those attending meetings, has dwindled through the passage of time, advancing years and departure overseas. New blood has now come forward to take over the running of the Circle and to carry on some of the outstanding researches and it is to be hoped that we can now look forward to furthering the work of the WSC and to take up the challenge that still presents itself.

This letter is being sent, not only to groups who are already corporate members, but also to those who, from the SG catalogues, would appear to include Waterlow printed stamps in their area of interest and who are, perhaps, unaware of our work and its extent.

Membership Subscription is £6.00 p.a. whether corporate or individual and back numbers of the Journal are available at £2.00 each from the Secretary, Noel Lyons whose address is appended below

We are writing to you in the hope that you and perhaps some of your members may be interested in joining the Waterlow Study Circle, to participate in our work and ensure that the study continues to go forward for the benefit of philately generally.

We look forward to hearing from you and any of your members who would like more information.

Yours Sincerely,

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Secretary: Noel Lyons,
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